

I urge the FCC to actively enforce requirements that broadcast television and radio stations include substantive local content in their programming. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air a political documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. The FCC must make sure that station managers are the final decision makers on what gets included in their broadcasts.

When companies control stations that are spread out over many areas, the public gets what's good for the company whose interests are necessarily far removed from the communities in which they operate. It's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about local issues that matter.

We need to strengthen media ownership rules. I urge the FCC to use the license renewal process to require stations to fulfill their public interest responsibilities. If stations fail, the FCC ought to refuse to renew their licenses.

Thank you.